

Wm. S. Carter Comp.

BILLERICAY

Rural District Council.

 REPORT 

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1905.

CHELMSFORD:

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REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

The following is my report for 1905 :

Our sanitary district consists of 24 parishes, with a population, according to the census of 1901, of 17,503.

This is to total population, but for statistical purposes the 1,698 inmates of the Asylum and 613 soldiers at Warley Barracks must be deducted. This leaves a population of 15,192 on which all birth and death rates have been calculated. In these figures the Workhouse is included, as the inmates are drawn almost entirely from the Union district.

The total number of births registered was 391. Of these 185 were boys, and 206 girls. One (not included) was born in the Asylum ; 13 were illegitimate, 5 of whom were born in the Workhouse.

This gives a birth rate of 25·7 per 1,000 of population.

The total of deaths was 403—186 in the District, 208 in the Asylum. Nine in the Workhouse, included in the return for the District, were transferred to the "Brentwood Locality"—5 in the Cottage Hospital and 4 in the Barracks. This gives a death rate of 12·3 per 1,000 of population.

For the five years during which the District has been constituted as at present, *i.e.*, from 1900 to 1904, both inclusive, the average birth rate has been 25·7 and the average death rate 13·7 per 1,000 of population.

There were 29 deaths in Infants under one year—a mortality of 74.1 per 1,000 of births. A very satisfactory return, as 8 of these were due to premature birth. It is remarkable that only one death was attributed to Zymotic disease.

In connection with the subject of Infantile Mortality, I am of opinion that deaths from premature birth should not be classified with deaths occurring from disease. Many infants are returned as dying within so many minutes or hours or days from "Premature Birth." These deaths are generally the reflex of the surroundings or impaired health of their parents or from accidents in childbirth. By making a separate class for these, the Infantile death rate would become much more accurate and correspondingly valuable.

There are no "Separate Localities."

The following tables will show the ages at which death occurred, and the diseases causing death :—

*BILLERICAY RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY,
INCLUDING WORKHOUSE.*

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING
YEAR 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Measles	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup	2	..	...	2	..	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza... ..	4	...	...	...	...	2	2
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Erysipelas	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	12	...	1	...	2	9	...
Other tubercular diseases... ..	5	...	1	2	1	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease	7	...	...	...	..	7	..
Bronchitis	20	5	3	...	...	...	12
Pneumonia	14	1	...	2	1	6	4
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respira- tory organs	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism }	3	...	...	...	...	2	1
Cirrhosis of Liver }							
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	8	8	..	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Heart diseases	22	...	1	2	1	9	9
Accidents	8	...	2	1	3	...	2
Suicides	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
All other causes	79	11	5	1	2	17	43
All causes	195	29	15	10	11	57	73

From this table nine deaths in the Workhouse have to be deducted as occurring in parishioners of Brentwood and are transferred to that "Locality" for statistical purposes.

ESSEX COUNTY ASYLUM.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING
YEAR 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Searlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other septic diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	18	...	...	...	9	9	...
Other tubercular diseases	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Cancer, malignant disease	3	...	...	...	...	3	...
Bronehitis	7	...	...	...	...	4	3
Pneumonia	25	...	...	2	1	17	5
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respira- tory organs	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrrosis of Liver }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	14	...	...	1	...	9	4
Accidents ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes	136	...	...	5	4	69	58
 All causes	 208	 —	 —	 8	 14	 116	 70

COTTAGE HOSPITAL, SHENFIELD.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING
YEAR 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
Smallpox
Measles
Scarlet fever
Whooping cough
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Croup
Fever { Typhus
{ Enteric
{ Other continued
Epidemic influenza...
Cholera
Plague
Diarrhœa
Enteritis
Puerperal fever
Erysipelas
Other septic diseases ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pnthisis
Other tubercular diseases...
Cancer, malignant disease	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Bronchitis
Pneumonia
Pleurisy
Other diseases of Respira- tory organs
Alcoholism }
Cirrhosis of Liver }
Venereal diseases
Premature birth
Diseases and accidents of parturition
Heart diseases
Accidents
Suicides
All other causes	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
All causes... ..	5	—	1	1	1	2	—

WARLEY BARRACKS.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING
YEAR 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
Smallpox
Measles
Scarlet fever
Whooping cough
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup
Croup
Fever { Typhus
{ Enteric
{ Other continued
Epidemic influenza...
Cholera
Plague
Diarrhœa
Enteritis
Puerperal fever
Erysipelas
Other septic diseases
Phthisis
Other tubercular diseases...
Cancer, malignant disease...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Bronchitis
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Pleurisy
Other diseases of Respira- tory organs
Alcoholism }
Cirrhosis of Liver }							
Venereal diseases
Premature birth
Diseases and accidents of parturition
Heart diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Accidents
Suicides
All other causes	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
All causes... ..	4	—	—	—	1	3	—

117 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year as below—

BILLERICAY RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

CASES of INFECTIOUS DISEASE Notified during 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up-wards.
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	28	...	2	26	...	..	...
Membranous Croup ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	9	2	...	...	2	4	1
Scarlet fever (Asylum)	22	Ages	not	specified.			
" " (District)	48	1	7	34	2	4	...
Enteric fever... ..	8	...	..	2	3	3	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
Plague... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	117	3	9	62	8	12	1

The Isolation Hospital was occupied the whole year, with the exception of the time when alterations and additions were being made. It is now very complete, and the work of the Hospital much more easily carried on.

The number of admissions was 42, as below :—

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE RECEIVED INTO ISOLATION HOSPITAL for 1905.

	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up-wards.
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	14	...	...	13	1	...	...
Membranous Croup...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	22	...	4	12	4	2	...
Typhus fever... ..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Enteric fever... ..	6	...	...	2	2	2	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	42	...	4	27	7	4	...

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS.

Year.	Birth Rate per Thousand.	Death Rate per Thousand.	Death Rate per 1,000 of Births.
1900	31.3	13.6	71.2
1901	23.4	16.8	77.3
1902	24.6	12.3	80.0
1903	25.5	12.3	62.0
1904	23.8	11.6	92.2
1905	25.7	12.7	74.1
Average	25.7	13.2	76.1

BILLERICAY RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY. VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1905 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

*In consequence of the division of the District in 1900 this
table cannot be filled up. Brentwood was then made an
Urban District.*

The deaths from Zymotic disease amounted to 10. The diseases causing death were : Measles 2, Whooping Cough 1, Diphtheria 2, Puerperal Fever 2, Erysipelas 1, Scarlatina 1, Enteric Fever 1. The last two were in the Isolation Hospital, and registered in the Chelmsford District.

Phthisis caused 14 deaths, two of which were in the Workhouse, and were transferred to "Brentwood Locality." This is in marked contrast to the returns for the three previous years. The deaths in the Asylum from the same cause were this year 18.

The below table gives the returns for the last six years :—

Year.	District.	Asylum.
1900	11	29
1901	11	19
1902	6	14
1903	6	23
1904	4	22
1905	12	18
Total ...	50	125

Influenza caused 4 deaths ; Cancer and other malignant diseases caused 7 deaths. One other occurring in the Workhouse was transferred to the " Brentwood Locality."

The below Table will show the returns for the last six years.

Deaths from Cancer :

Year.	District.	Asylum.
1900	13	6
1901	16	5
1902	20	3
1903	21	5
1904	11	2
1905	7	3
Total ..	88	24

Scarlet
Fever.

The 70 cases of Scarlet Fever were 22 in the Asylum and 48 in the District : 26 of these were in 4 families, 2 were in the Workhouse. The remainder were single cases.

The cases in the Asylum were no doubt infected by visitors, as has been the case before. The admission of visitors and friends to patients was stopped for a time, and there were no further cases. There were no deaths.

Of the 48 cases in the District 26 were in four families, 2 were in the Workhouse, the remainder were single cases.

In one family there were 6 cases, no medical man having been called in till the last child was ill, his case being a more serious one. Four of these children have been attending school—three of them the Board Schools—for a period of two months. It is surprising that there was no serious outbreak. Of the two cases in the Workhouse one was imported, the other no doubt contracted at the Board School, where the Workhouse Children attend. The type of disease this year has been decidedly mild.

Diphtheria.

There were 28 cases of Diphtheria : of these 10 were in Childerditch Parish, 4 being in one family, and six families having one case each. This outbreak commenced November 28 and terminated December 18. There were two deaths. The case notified on the 18th was in a child aged 2, and there was a history of two cases of Sore Throat in the family some days before, but no doctor was called in. This was 8 days after the last previous case was notified. I think this outbreak was spread by School infection. The Schools were closed directly the first cases were notified, and were thoroughly disinfected.

I was unable to arrive at the first cause. The days of notification were : 2 on December 1, 2 on the 8th, 3 on the 9th, and 2 on the 10th ; 1 December 18th.

There were 10 cases in 7 families in Shenfield Parish, but unlike Childerditch there was no general outbreak, the 10 cases being spread over a period from January 27 to October 27.

In Downham there were five cases in two families, between whom there was constant communication, and in Wickford one case.

There were 8 cases of Enteric : of these 2 were imported. One in the Workhouse was due to defective sanitation—in the other five cases there were defects of sanitation more or less serious. The cases were widely distributed, and there was no suggestion of any common infection.

Enteric.

There were two cases of Puerperal Fever—in one certainly the sanitary surroundings were not satisfactory.

Puerperal
Fever.

The question of Certificated Midwives is one that has been prominently before the public for some time, and this year an Act has come into force making it imperative that any woman who practises as a midwife should have a Certificate from the Central Board.

The Asylum and all properties in Warley Road outside the Special Drainage District and most of the properties in Brook Street are now connected with the Putwell Bridge Works. These are working satisfactorily.

Drainage.

From Priests Lane and Shenfield Common extensions have been made along the Ingrave Road as far as the Fountain Public-House : from this the sewage will gravitate to a pumping station, near the Three-Arch Bridge, and be pumped to the east end of Priests Lane, and thence, by gravitation to the Shenfield and Hutton Works. A branch from the Cornsland Estate will join this.

Water
Supplies.

Water mains to Pilgrim's Hatch, Cockstye Green, and South Weald Village, have been laid by the South Essex Water Company. Bentley is still without a water supply.

The Sewering of Wickford is completed, but the connections have not yet been made. The extension of the Southend Water Company's main from North Benfleet has been sanctioned by the Local Government Board, and contract for the work accepted (T. G. Darby and Co., Wickford, contractors).

At Billericay no advance has been made in the plan for sewerage—everything is as it was last year.

Slyce's Gate
Borehole.

The borehole at Slyce's Gate was completed in the summer of 1904, and is still unused. Since my last report Hutton, Laindon, Bassildon, Nevendon, and Downham, with a total population of 1,777, have signified their intention of withdrawing from the water scheme. The only parishes left in are Great Burstead, Ramsden Crays, and Ramsden Bellhouse, the population of which is 2,267.

Bassildon, Nevendon, and part of Laindon, could easily, and I think economically, be supplied from the Southend Water Co.'s main at Vange, if they would undertake the work. There is hardly a house in the district that has a supply of water. Not one, I should say, except Basildon Rectory, and this has, although a deep well, at last given out for some months. In one part of Basildon, about half mile in length, there are 36 houses, whose only supply is from the roof. In Laindon, again, there is another long stretch, with a considerable number of new houses, with only the same supply.

Mention has been made of a small scheme for Burstead, Ramsden Crays, and Ramsden Bellhouse, but as yet nothing has resulted.

In my report for the year 1881, my first year as Medical Officer of Health, I drew attention to the urgent need of a water supply in certain parts of the district. They are without exception in the same condition as regards a water supply as they were 25 years ago.

The usual inspection of the District has been made. The Inspector's Reports are appended.

The rainfall for the year was 20·89 inches—below the average.

From Gauge
at
Ramsden Hall.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

FRED. CARTER, M.D.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

SUMMARY OF WORK done through the Sanitary Inspector
in the Rural Sanitary District of Billericay (Western Division)
during the year ending December 31st, 1905.

- 25 Complaints received.
- 191 Nuisances detected without complaint.
- 169 Nuisances abated.
- 123 Notices served. Some nuisances abated without notices being served.
 - 1 Summons taken out. For exposure of person while suffering from Scarlet Fever.
 - 1 Conviction
- 223 Cottages inspected.
 - Lodging-houses inspected, nil. None in district.
- 6 Slaughter-houses inspected. Generally found in good condition.
- 9 Bakehouses inspected These have been cleansed as per Act, 1901.
- 11 Dairies and Milk Shops inspected.
- 26 Cowsheds inspected. Several improvements have been made in drainage, lighting, and ventilating cowsheds.
- 21 Workshops inspected.
 - Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875, nil.
- 32 Houses disinfected.
 - Overcrowding abated, nil.
 - Houses placed in habitable repair, nil.
 - Houses closed, nil.
- 27 Houses erected or re-built for which Water "Certificates" were applied.
- 25 "Certificates" granted.
- 2 " deferred
- Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded. Water mains have been extended to Pilgrims Hatch, and South Weald village.
- 3 Wells cleansed or repaired.
 - Wells closed, nil.
- 24 New houses
- 108 Houses connected with sewers. Old houses on South Weald and Shenfield sewers, drains tested with water.
- 60 Houses connected with water mains. Old houses.
- 18 New houses
 - 7 Earth, pail, or improved privies constructed or existing privies altered.
- 59 Privies and w.c.'s repaired; w.c.'s supplied with water.
 - Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered, nil.
 - Animals improperly kept removed, nil.
- 13 Samples of water taken for Analysis.
 - Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding, nil.
 - Seizures of unsound Meat, &c., nil.

(Signed) SAMUEL J. SHELLEY.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

SUMMARY of WORK done through the Sanitary Inspector
in the Eastern Sanitary District of Billericay during the
year ending December 31st, 1905.

- 23 Complaints received. Written complaints.
- 180 Nuisances detected without complaint. House to house inspection.
- 172 Nuisances abated.
- 49 Notices served.
 - Summonses taken out, nil.
 - Convictions, nil.
- 227 Cottages inspected.
 - Lodging-houses inspected, nil.
- 7 Slaughter-houses inspected.
- 9 Bakehouses inspected.
 - Dairies and Milk Shops inspected, nil.
- 13 Cowsheds inspected.
 - 1 Workshop inspected.
 - Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875, nil.
- 15 Houses disinfected.
 - 1 Overcrowding abated, and 1 Notice recently served.
- 12 Houses placed in habitable repair. These are repairs to houses that were occupied.
 - Houses closed, nil.
- 46 Houses erected or re-built for which Water "Certificates" were applied. New houses erected.
- 10 "Certificates" granted. Wells and water mains as a supply.
- 36 " deferred. Rainwater as a supply.
 - 2 Wells sunk or improved supplies of Water afforded. New houses.
 - 4 Wells cleansed or repaired.
 - Wells closed, nil.
- 3 Houses connected with sewers. In Billericay.
 - " " with water mains, nil.
- 27 earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed or existing privies altered.
- 36 Privies and w.c.'s repaired ; w.c.'s supplied with water.
 - Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered, nil.
 - Animals improperly kept removed, nil.
- 4 Samples of water taken for analysis. From old wells.
 - Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding, nil.
 - Seizures of unsound Meat, &c., nil.

(Signed) R. J. W. LAYLAND.

